

Implementation of 2003 Legislation Regarding Transit Asset Management

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
August 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

Prepared & Presented by: Barb Savary, PT&R;
Reviewed by: Judith Giniger, Director, Public Transportation and Rail
Approved by: Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing paper is to update the Commission on the work plans and strategies developed in response to the legislative direction contained in state law regarding Transit Asset Management Plans.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Seek approval of the final draft Transit Asset Management Plan requirements.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the Legislature enacted SSB 5248 regarding several transportation issues. Part three of the legislation established maintenance and preservation management requirements for cities, counties and transit entities. The legislation also required transit entities to submit an asset management plan to the Washington State Transportation Commission for certification as a condition of receiving state funding. The legislation is codified under the following RCW's:

- RCW 35.84.060, City Transit Authority
- RCW 36.56, County Transit Authority
- RCW 36.57A, Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority
- RCW 81.112, Regional Transit Authority

The statutes require that as a condition of receiving state funding, all Washington public transportation agencies are required to submit a maintenance and preservation management plan for all transit system assets to the Transportation Commission for certification. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the agency and provide a preservation plan based on lowest life-cycle cost methodologies.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Transportation and Rail Division established an Expert Panel to assist with the implementation of this requirement. The panel consisted of representatives from the Washington State Transit Association's Maintenance Committee (two from each size of transit system) and from the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool. WSDOT provided

monthly updates to the General Managers and Maintenance Managers of all transit systems. In addition, a formal comment period was conducted. To accomplish this, WSDOT sent the draft framework to all transit agencies along with a notice of the comment period; posted the information on the internet; and conducted two meetings to accept comments.

Process for Implementing the Program:

- (1) Review several transit agencies' preventative maintenance programs. Identify the difference between what WSDOT currently receives and what the legislation requires. **Completed**
- (2) Establish an Expert Panel with the Washington State Transit Association. **Completed**
- (3) Develop a draft asset management plan framework with descriptions of the expected contents and the criteria for the plan's approval. The framework will recognize the different sizes of transit agencies (large urban, small urban, and rural). **Completed**
- (4) Present the draft framework to the Commission for input– **Completed, presented to the Commission in April 2004**
- (5) Provide ongoing communication with public transit agencies regarding the progress for development of the asset management plan framework and criteria.
 - a) Provide monthly status reports to Transit Executives and Maintenance Managers – **Ongoing through implementation**
 - b) Solicit feedback. – **Comment period completed July, 2004**
- (6) Request approval from Commission of proposed asset management plan requirements. **August 2004**
- (7) WSDOT's Public Transportation and Rail Division staff provides training and technical assistance to requesting transit agencies in completing asset management plans. **August – November 2004**
- (8) Collect asset management plans and submit to Commission for certification. **November – December 2004**

RECOMMENDATION:

Request approval from the Transportation Commission on the Final Draft Asset Management Plan Requirements

For further information, contact Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, 360-705-7027 or Judith Giniger, Public Transportation and Rail Director, 360-705-7921.